



Docket No.: 247769US3X CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/757,479
Applicants: Tomio MIMURA, et al.
Filing Date: January 15, 2004
For: GAS-LIQUID CONTACT PLATE AND GAS-LIQUID
CONTACTOR
Group Art Unit: 1764
Examiner: Unassigned

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

LETTER

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

Our check in the amount of -0- is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

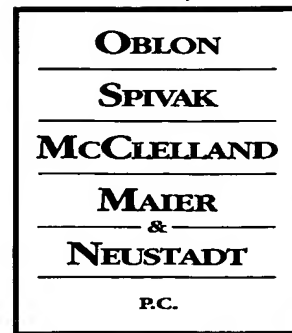
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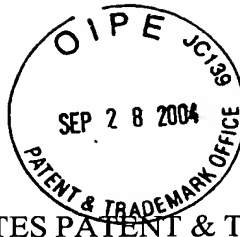


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DOCKET NO: 247769US3X CONT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOMIO MIMURA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: UNASSIGNED
SERIAL NO: 10/757,479 :
FILED: JANUARY 15, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1764
FOR: GAS-LIQUID CONTACT PLATE :
AND GAS-LIQUID CONTACTOR

LETTER

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicants' submit the attached Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 of Naoyuki Yoshizumi.

The attached Declaration describes experiments supervised by Mr. Yoshizumi, one of the co-inventors in the present application. These experiments emphasize the significance of the limitation found in claim 6 of the present application:

...openings in a peak and valley portion of said irregularities, said openings connecting a front surface to a back surface between the adjacent rows and covering an area of 10 to 20 % of the contact plate...

Priestley does not teach or suggest the above limitation, and does not teach or suggest varying the rate of hole area in order to effect a varying degree of gas liquid contact. These experiments emphasize the significance of the functional effects of this limitation, including the significant advantages seen when the rate of hole area is between 10 and 20 percent. Lacking this significant limitation, Priestley does not anticipate the present invention. It is

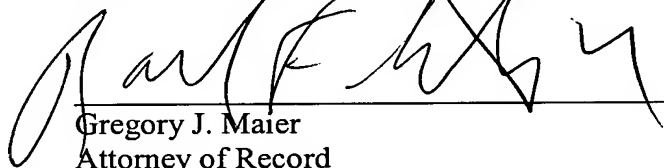
Application No. 10/757,479
Attorney Docket No. 247769US3X CONT
Inventors: Tomio MIMURA, et al.
Letter

respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 6, and claim 7 depending therefrom are allowable.

In light of the above discussion and the attached Declaration, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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